

From our Principal

Friday 5th April 2024

Dear Parents, Carers, Families and Community Members,
Big congratulations to Cooper and his family who attended the Penrith City Council Primary Captain’s Reception last night at the Evans Theatre Penrith Panthers! Cooper is one of our Junior School Captains and did a great job waiting his turn and going on to the stage to receive his award. Congratulations also to Savannah, who was unable to attend the event on Thursday 4th April 2024.



PLPs

Next week, the PLPs that were discussed with your child’s teacher will be sent home. We’re looking forward to having more students with a definite yes and no, making more use of their devices and generally working towards great communication across the day.

FAMILY FUN DAY

I hope all who attended had a lovely afternoon at the Fun Day on Saturday 16th March – a big thank you to the P&C for organising it as a free event for everyone. Phil has more to say about the event in the newsletter, so please have a look. Our P&C is here to support our community and does not have as its primary purpose fundraising for school resources – all the fundraising goes towards events for our families. Coffee and chat sessions are an opportunity to connect with others too, so I urge you to read Phil’s pieces in the newsletter and join in for the benefit of yourself and your family. Many thanks to Phil and his team who make it all happen.

ASSISTED SCHOOL TRAVEL

We seem to have had several issues with students and their buses this term. Many students are picked up by ASTP– we have 19 vehicles transporting up to 87 of our 129 students daily. Student safety is a vital part of this process and there are times when things happen on the way to school, which may mean students are unsettled in the vehicles. Please note that any changes have to come through the school – the travel support officers should not be making suggestions about belt buckle covers or harnesses for children to you. School provides a behaviour plan for students who may find travelling with many others a challenge and usually the class teacher or I will ring you if we have had some incidents happening on the way to school that need addressing. Obviously, we all want the children to travel safely to school and home each day. It is our job at school and your job at home to make sure the children are in their seats, buckled up in the seatbelt and safe to travel each way every day. The driver is only allowed to wait three minutes at your home, so carry on being their as you are needed! Similarly, the guidelines are that if a student is unsettled in the vehicle, parents or school must assist them to settle within five minutes or

alternative arrangements need to be in place for the child’s transport. This is why sometimes parents are called by school to pick up a child at the end of the day. Thank you for reading this and bearing this in mind when issues occur – the last thing we want to happen is for a student to have a suspension from transport, which ASTP may do if a child is unsettled and not travelling safely.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

After a long weekend, the two week school holidays are starting at the end of next week, Friday 12th April will be the last day of Term. I will be taking leave for four days next week, so our DP, Alison, will be available in my absence. Stay safe in this wild weather and enjoy the holidays when they come!

GET TO KNOW OUR STAFF

This week we get to know our Blue Block Staff!

Warm wishes,

Julie



Daniel
Blue 5



Julie E
Blue 5



Megan
Blue 5



Shannon
Blue 6



Jen
Blue 6



Lillie
Blue 6



Danielle
Blue 7



Crystal
Blue 7



Deb
Blue 8



Jess V
Blue 8



Kelly
Blue 8



Dear Families,

SCHOOLBYTES:-

Hopefully you are all enjoying our new platform. We now only have (8) more families to join us on School Bytes and we are then fully assured you are all receiving our notices, letters and newsfeeds. Thank you also for learning how to make payments via this platform– we truly appreciate you supporting us.

UNIFORMS:-

Term 2 brings us into the cooler months, our office has long sleeved shirts, sloppy joes and jackets available in stock.

Please remember to **label all of your child’s clothing** so if they are misplaced we can return them home to you.

Also remember our second hand clothing pool is an option to ALL our families– just ask admin for a peek.

We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday break and have a chance to catch up with your families and friends.

Stay Safe;

Kisane, Elisha, Chris, April, Tara & Jane

FREE Family Holiday fun!

Mini Makers Holiday Activities

Kokoda Park

Come and join the fun these school holidays at Kokoda Park, St Marys.

There will be arts and crafts, face painting, active games, Penrith City Council’s Playvan and live music!

All of these fun activities are **FREE!**

If you are interested in taking your family, the fun begins on **Wednesday 17th April 2024 from 10am - 1.00pm** at Kokoda Park St Marys - 21 Carinya Ave.

Please contact Penrith City Council for further information on 02 4732 7777.



A day of showcasing post-school employment and education support options for school leavers with disability.

This event is FREE to attend and will be held at Penrith Valley Regional Sports Centre (30 Herbert St, Cambridge Park NSW 2747). This expo will run from 10:00am til 4:00pm.

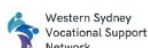
Ticket reservations open on Monday 18th March and will stay open until 10:00am Tuesday 18th June 2024.

If you are interested in finding out about post-school employment and support options for your child, then you may like to check out the Western Sydney Employment, Life Skills and Leisure Expo.

Scan the QR code to reserve tickets now!



Use the QR code on this page to reserve your tickets for this event.





HOME BASE RED

Welcome to Red Block News

Hello from Class Red 17!

We've been busy bees in Term 1, exploring lots of cool stuff and learning how to respect ourselves through fun stories and lessons. Our class is all about exploring, learning and making sure everyone feels included.

We've been working hard on writing and spelling, using our electronic devices every morning to help us pick words and make sentences. Plus, we've been reading some excellent books that teach us new things every day.

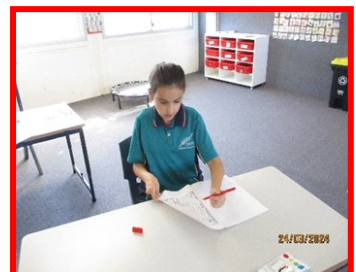
Swimming lessons have been a blast and we've been having a splash while learning how to stay safe in the water. In our garden, we've been watching plants grow and learning all about their needs.

In Math, we've been getting to grips with dates and numbers, making sure we understand them both by seeing, hearing and using them.

We're also learning about ourselves, how we've grown and changed and the different parts of our bodies. In Phonics, we're practicing sounds and putting them into words to help us read better.

Red 17 isn't just a classroom; it's a fun place where we learn and grow together every day.

Best wishes,
Dan & Liane





HOMEBASE PURPLE

Welcome to Purple Block News

Welcome to Purple 19. In our class we have Alex, Amber, Talen, Lachlan, Arin, Daniel, Shae and Evie. Our teachers are Meredith, Kylie, Lorette and Natasha. We have been learning and experiencing many exciting things so far this term.

Some students from Purple Block attended the Cabarita Swimming Carnival and The Royal Easter Show!

At the show we got to see all sorts of farm animals including, pigs, sheep, cows, goats and chickens. One highlight was watching the sheep shearing show and seeing where wool comes from to make our clothes and blankets. We saw how wheat is made into flour and some students even got to grind the wheat. When we sat down for lunch some of us were excited to watch the motorbikes performing tricks but others thought they were too loud.

In Science we have been learning about the needs of plants, one of which is water. We found out that seeds need water to grow into a plant. In food technology we have been making simple meals independently like toast as well as ham, cheese and tomato toasties.

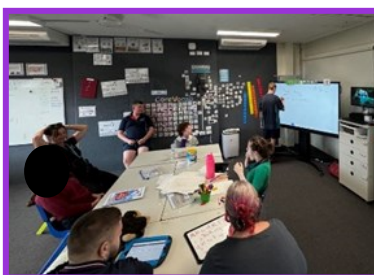
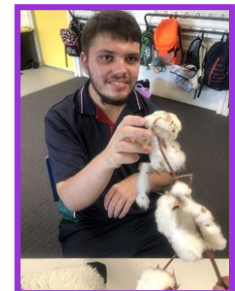
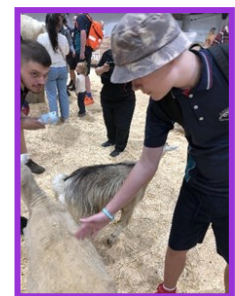
In English we have been playing a combination of hangman and Wheel of Fortune to work out words and phrases that the students have chosen.

During Maths we have also played some counting and addition board games.

We are looking forward to swimming on Fridays.

Bye for now!

Meredith, Kylie, Lorette & Natasha



“WORDS OF WISDOM”

Have a chat
from Betty!

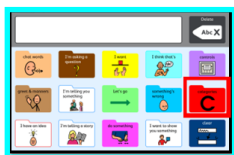


Hi everyone,

Hope everyone enjoyed the little break over Easter. Some of our children who use communication devices may have had special chat pages set up just for the occasion. These pages can be so helpful in sparking conversations about recent events. You might consider other special occasions where you can set up topic specific vocabulary.

As helpful as these pages are, it is also very important to show our children where they can find the same words within the usual category folders for everyday conversation. Instead of finding the word “chocolate” in the Easter page, show them they can also find it in the food folder. This way, we are teaching our children that they can use words across topics and contexts. Below are pictures of different systems and where you might find food related words.

Betty



OT - finding
solutions
to empower
everyday living



Let's DANCE!

On Friday's during term 1, students have had the option to join the occupational therapist for dance sessions during their lunch break. Dance has a breadth of therapeutic benefits including:

- Physical benefits: fitness, coordination, strength, and flexibility.
- Cognitive benefits: intellectual stimulation, planning, spatial development, sequential learning, problem solving, attention and memory.
- Social benefits: encouraging social interactions, cooperation, turn taking, and communication.
- Other benefits: supporting creative expression, listening skills, confidence, developing rhythm and musicality, reducing anxiety, and generally enhancing mood!

The smiles and active engagement from those who participate says it all!

Kyla

Counsellor
Corner!



Dear families and carers,

It has been a busy first term, especially for our high school students, many of whom have been to transition support meetings and making plans for the future. Also, several of our high schoolers have had the chance to assist with the Fernhill canteen. It is so great to see these young people preparing themselves for the future and showcasing their exceptional manners and customer service skills!

Our role with the School Counselling Service at Fernhill is largely around undertaking appropriate assessment and documentation as necessary to ensure all our students receive the funding and supports they need. However, we also can provide students and families with psychological reports and documentation to assist with NDIS and Centrelink reviews/applications, especially as they near the end of their schooling. We can also support families by carrying out a range of cognitive (IQ) and other assessments at school at no cost to families. There's lots more that we do in school and to help families at Fernhill, so please contact us if something is on your mind.

Best wishes to all the Fernhill community for a safe and happy holidays,
Olivia and Sally

PS - Sally will be on leave for the first three weeks of Term 2.

P&C News



Dear Parents and Carers,

Saturday 16th March saw the running of the Fernhill Family Fun Day, and with the rain holding until well into the afternoon, the feedback tells me that all who attended had a great time.!

We would like to thank those that supported the day through generous donations:

- Woolworths Glenmore Park - BBQ food
- Kachow – Michael & Amanda
- Regentville RFS
- Claude Buda – delicious cinnamon donuts

Along with the suppliers:

- Screaming Beans Coffee
- Festival Amusements
- Sydney Mobile Animal Farms
- Dragon Training Mobile Zoo
- Rainbow Children's Entertainment



The day also wouldn't have been possible without the assistance of Trinity, Julie, Kimberley and the staff of Fernhill that gave up their Saturday to assist in running activities.

We responded to feedback from the 2022 event by having new and additional activities, as well as revised food options, layout of the day and additional signage. Feedback is what helps us improve the event.

It is central to the success and inclusive nature of the day, that the event is free in its entirety. Throughout the day the question was repeatedly asked "is this not a fundraising day?"

The P&C fundraises throughout the year to make the Family Fun Day a success and for it not to be a fundraising event.

In 2023, the Fernhill P&C was fortunate to fundraise through barbeques at 3 elections held at the school – an unprecedented opportunity. In order to run this event again, the P&C needs volunteers to assist with a Bunnings BBQ, having said that, we need indications from people who would be able to assist.

On the next page, you will find some questions and answers about the Fernhill P&C, what we do, and the help that we need.

Our next P&C meeting is Wednesday of Week 3 Term 2 (8th May) at 9:30am, I am always happy to answer any questions about the P&C and can be contacted on 0408 491 645.

Thanks

Phil Richards
P&C President

The P&C...

What fundraising does the P&C do?

The P&C holds election BBQs when the opportunity arises, the Easter Raffle and at other community events. We have discussed this and feel that we should not be fundraising from within our school community, for our school community.

However, the Easter Raffle does go against this idea in some ways. It does provide an opportunity to create conversations with people about our school.

Does the Mothers Day and Fathers Day stalls raise money?

No, these stalls run at a small loss. The objective is not to fundraise but to provide an opportunity for the students to purchase quality gifts, at an affordable price. For those families going through hardship times, the P&C provides a selection of gifts at these stalls for students that aren't purchasing.

How much does the P&C need to fundraise each year?

The total money needed for 2023, was \$5,500. This covers:

- Fernhill Family Fun Day
- Shortfall in running the Mothers Day and Fathers Day stalls
- Administration costs; such as insurance and supplies needed to run the P&C

The success of the 2023 Election BBQs has relieved some of the pressure on 2024 and 2025 fundraising, however we still need to aim for \$4,000.

How does the P&C aim to raise this money?

The annual Easter Raffle has kicked in \$1,200, meaning \$2,800 needs to come from BBQs. Saturday 14th September is council elections and if Fernhill is a polling booth for Penrith Council elections, we will aim to run a BBQ. Ideally, we would still like to run a Bunnings BBQ as well.

What happens if the P&C doesn't hit its fundraising goals?

We will look to reduce the frequency of the Family Fun Day to every second year or unfortunately, suspend the Family Fun Day indefinitely.

The fundraising by the P&C is for school, the community and community events.

Is the P&C just about fundraising?

Absolutely not! The P&C is about the parents and community. We are constantly looking at ways that we can create opportunities to build connections within the school community between parents and carers and the wider community.

In the past we have run regular Coffee and Chat sessions, as well as supporting the school in running information sessions and discussion forums.

I'd like to get involved or find out more...

The P&C would love to hear from you. You can contact myself, Phil, on 0408 491 645 or send an email to pgr304@gmail.com. Alternatively, you can contact the P&C through the school email fernhill-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Thanks – Phil



Many hands make light work.
If you are able to help out sometimes
we would love to hear from you!


FERNHILL COMMUNITY NOTICES

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:

Monday 15th April - Friday 26th April 2024

Monday 29th April 2024 - Staff Development Day

Tuesday 30th April 2024 - Students Return

 FERNHILL School - Term 2 2024				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29 th Apr SDD	30 th Apr STUDENTS RETURN	1 st May	2 nd May	3 rd May
6 th May	7 th May	8 th May	9 th May	10 th May
13 th May	14 th May	15 th May	16 th May	17 th May



CONTACT US

Principal: Julie Raciborska



02 4733 0388



Fernhill School



12-40 Ridgetop Drive,
Glenmore Park NSW 2745



www.fernhill-s.schools.nsw.edu.au



fernhill-s.school@det.nsw.edu.au



Fernhill SSP